
**PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION**

Independent living services offer a range of payment and nonpayment related services to individuals who require advice or assistance to support effective functioning within their home or the household of another.

**Nonpayment
Services**

Nonpayment independent living services are available upon request, without regard to income or assets, to any person who needs some form of in-home service (except personal care services). Nonpayment services include all services listed below:

- Information and referral.
- Protection (for adults in need of a conservator or a guardian, but who are not in any immediate need of protective intervention).
- Money management (Referrals to Social Security Administration).
- Housing (Referrals for Section 8 Housing).

**Payment
Services Home
Help**

Home help services are non-specialized personal care service activities provided under the independent living services program to persons who meet eligibility requirements.

Home help services are provided to enable individuals with functional limitation(s), resulting from a medical or physical disability or cognitive impairment to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings.

Home help services are defined as those tasks which the department is paying for through Title XIX (Medicaid) funds. These services are furnished to individuals who are **not** currently residing in a hospital, nursing facility, licensed foster care home/home for the aged, intermediate care facility (ICF) for persons with developmental disabilities or institution for mental illness.

These activities **must** be certified by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies. **The medical professional does not prescribe or authorize personal care services.** Needed services are determined by the comprehensive assessment conducted by the adult services specialist.

Personal care services which are eligible for Title XIX funding are limited to:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.
- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.
- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking medication.
- Meal preparation/cleanup.
- Shopping for food and other necessities of daily living.
- Laundry.
- Light housecleaning.

An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) ranked 3 or higher or complex care need in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

Note: If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services if assessed at a level 3 or greater.

Example: Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing. However, she refuses to receive assistance or her daughter agrees to assist her at no charge. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

Note: If an individual uses adaptive equipment to assist with an ADL, and without the use this equipment the person would require hands-on care, the individual must be ranked a level 3 or greater on

the functional assessment. This individual would be eligible to receive home help services.

Example: Mr. Jones utilizes a transfer bench to get in and out of the bathtub, which allows him to bathe himself without the hands-on assistance of another. The adult services specialist must rank Mr. Jones a 3 or greater under the functional assessment. Mr. Jones would be eligible to receive home help services.

Assistive technology would include such items as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, reachers, lift chairs, bath benches, grab bars and handheld showers. This list is not all inclusive.

Expanded Home Help Services (EHHS)

Expanded home help services can be authorized for individuals who have severe functional limitations which require such extensive care that the service cost must be approved by the adult services supervisor/local office designee and/or the MDHHS Long Term Care Policy Section.

Complex Care

Complex care refers to conditions requiring intervention with special techniques and/or knowledge. These complex care tasks are performed on clients whose diagnoses or conditions require more management. The conditions may also require special treatment and equipment for which specific instructions by a health professional or client may be required in order to perform.

- Eating or feeding assistance.
- Catheters or leg bags.
- Colostomy care.
- Bowel program.
- Suctioning.
- Specialized skin care.
- Range of motion exercises.
- Dialysis (In-home).
- Wound care.
- Respiratory treatment.
- Ventilators.
- Injections.

Home Help Services for Minor Children

When providing for minor children, personal care services must be shown to be a necessary supplement to usual parental care, justified by the high service needs of the family. High service needs are those which arise from a physical, medical, emotional, or mental impairment of the minor child and which require significantly higher levels of intervention than those required by a child of the same age without similar impairments.

Example: It is expected that a one year old child would be incontinent due to age however; a 16 year old minor would likely have a medical or cognitive condition causing incontinence.

Children typically have responsible relatives (parents/adoptive parents) able and available to provide for their care needs. When responsible relatives are **unable** due to a medical condition, or **unavailable** due to employment or school, they can hire a provider to perform the activities of daily living, medication administration and meal preparation required during the parent's absence. Parents **cannot** be the paid provider for their minor children.

Note: A medical needs form must provide verification the responsible relative is unable to provide care due to a medical condition. If the responsible relative is unavailable due to employment or school, they must provide a work or school schedule to verify they are unavailable to provide care.

The adult services specialist **must not** authorize approval for tasks that can be completed by the responsible relative during the time they are available.

Note: A legal guardian is **not** a responsible relative and can be paid to provide home help services to the minor child.

Payments are **only** for the amount of time related to the approved tasks and cannot include time for child care, supervision and monitoring. The specialist must ensure there are no duplication of services.

The adult services specialist must evaluate whether day-care services are appropriate rather than home help services.

**Services not
Covered by
Home Help**

Home help services must **not** be approved for the following:

- Supervising, monitoring, reminding, guiding, teaching or encouraging (functional assessment rank 2).
- Services provided for the benefit of others.
- Services for which a responsible relative is **able** and **available** to provide (such as house cleaning, laundry or shopping). A responsible relative is defined as an individual's spouse or a parent of an unmarried child under age 18.
- Services provided by another resource at the same time (for example, hospitalization, MI-Choice Waiver).
- Transportation - See Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 825 for medical transportation policy and procedures.
- Money management such as power of attorney or representative payee.
- Home delivered meals.
- Adult or child day care.
- Recreational activities. (For example, accompanying and/or transporting to the movies, sporting events etc.)

Note: The above list is not all inclusive.